

One Day Adventures

Sequoia National Forest

Kern River Ranger District



What can you do during a day trip to the Sequoia National Forest? The Kern River Ranger District, located at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, provides diverse recreational opportunities for those with just one day to visit the Forest. Each suggested trip can be completed in less than 8 hours, round trip from Bakersfield.

Take a Hike: A variety of nearby trails are open year round. Mill Creek and Remington Ridge trails climb gradually up Breckenridge Mountain through open grass, oaks and streamside woodlands. Patch Corner, Hobo and Kern River trails wind along the Kern River, under sycamores, oaks, cottonwoods and spring wildflowers. Sunday Peak trail climbs through mixed conifer to the summit, providing excellent views of the Kern Valley and high Sierra peaks.

Visit A Giant: Numerous groves of Giant Sequoias are close enough to Bakersfield to visit in a day. Trail of 100 Giants is an interpretive trail that explains the natural history of the trees. Deer Creek Grove is the southern-most grove of Sequoias, located southeast of California Hot Springs.

Pack A Lunch: Plan a picnic or barbeque along the Kern River or high in the mountains. Developed picnic grounds (Live Oak, Richbar and Sandy Flat) along the Kern River provide picnic tables and grills. Developed campgrounds at Breckenridge, Cedar Creek and Evans Flat provide tables and firings in higher elevation forested settings.

Run A River: The Kern River with a gradient of 30 feet per mile offers spectacular white water rafting. Several outfitters provide guided day and overnight raft trips on the Lower Kern. Private rafting and kayaking permits are available also.

Ski A Mountain: Winter brings snow to the higher elevations of the Forest. Downhill skiing and snowboarding are available Alta Sierra at Shirley Meadows Resort. Numerous cross country ski trails are found on Greenhorn Summit. Snowmobile trails are found along Forest Highway 90 and snow play areas are located at Greenhorn Summit and Cedar Creek.

Visit a Lookout Visitors are welcome at Breckenridge Fire Lookout during the summer. Views of the central valley as well as Mount Whitney are possible on clear days. Historic Oak Flat Lookout is available for overnight rental.

Take A Drive: Scenic and backcountry byways make pleasant day drives. Suggested routes include Rancheria Road (good spring wildflower displays), Breckenridge Road (great fall color displays), Western Divide Highway and Highway 178 following the Kern River.

Hook A Fish: Cast a line in the Kern River, Lake Isabella, or a mountain stream. California Department of Fish and Game stocks Lake Isabella, with catchable size rainbow trout.

Strike It Rich: Seek your fortune panning for gold. Prospecting using a gold pan is allowed on all forest waterways. Use extreme caution when panning in rivers, as swift underwater currents are common.

Ride A Bike: Mountain bikes and off highway motorcycles are allowed on certain forest trails. Cow Flat Road is a popular mountain bike route. Motorcycles will find challenging trails in the Piute Mountains, or the convenience of the Cyrus Canyon OHV track.

Visit the Past: This area is rich in history. Explore an early American site at Evans Flat, explore the Unal interpretive Trail or tour the historic mining districts of Claraville.

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